

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 AID-05

OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 PC-01 USIE-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 /084 W

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O 240110Z JUL 76 ZFF SAN SALVADOR

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4039

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR NIACT IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 3598

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, ES, HO

SUBJECT: MEETING OF HONDURAN AND SALVADORAN CHIEFS OF STAFF

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 3540 (DTG 221405Z JUL 76)

BEGIN SUMMARY: LT. COL. ELVIR, ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, TOLD POLOFF ABOUT RESULTS OF HIS JULY 22 MEETING WITH SALVADORAN CHIEF OF STAFF. AN AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED TO WITHDRAW ALL TROOPS FROM SIX QDISPUTED BORDER AREAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SAN JOSE PROTOCOL; THE TWO FONMINS WILL MEET PRIOR TO JULY 29 TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION. THE GOH WISHES TO HAVE THE MATTER DEALT WITH BY THE OAS RATHER THAN SOLELY BY THE OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

1. POLOFF MET WITH ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, LT. COL. CESAR ELVIR SIERRA, ON JULY 23. ELVIR SAID HE MET WITH COL. ROJAS, SALVADORAN CHIEF OF STAFF, AT EL AMATILLO ON JULY 22. HE OBSERVED THAT A PORTION OF THE MEETING WAS DEVOTED TO MUTUAL RECRIMINATION ABOUT "WHO FIRED FIRST" AND "WHO IS TRYING TO GAIN A PROPAGANDA ADVANTAGE",

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2. ELVIR SAID THAT HE HAD ACCEPTED THE SALVADORAN PROPOSAL MADE DURING THEIR JULY 15 MEETING TO WITHDRAW ALL TROOPS FROM SIX AREAS IN DISPUTE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SAN JOSE PROTOCOL. HE REMARKED THAT THE EXACT BOUNDARIES OF THOSE AREAS WOULD HAVE TO BE DETERMINED. THEY ALSO AGREED THAT THE TWO FONMINS WOULD MEET TO DISCUSS THE MATTER PRIOR TO JULY 29.

3. ELVIR REMARKED THAT GOH IS IN FAVOR OF HAVING OAS RATHER THAN SOLELY CENTRAL AMERICAN STATES INVOLVED WITH TROOP WITHDRAWAL AND VERIFICATION. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE GOH PREFERRED TO DEAL WITH THE OAS BECAUSE THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES WOULD BE LARGELY INEFFECTUAL IN HELPING TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION AND ARE DIVIDED BY RIVALRIES. HE SAID FONMIN PALMA WOULD GO TO MANAGUA ON JULY 24 TO EXPLAIN THE GOH POSITION TO OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN FONMINS SO THAT THEY COULD NOT SAY THEY WERE UNINFORMED.

4. ELVIR COMMENTED THAT THERE IS STRONG SENTIMENT IN GOH FOR SALVADORAN AND HONDURAN FONMINS TO MEET IN WASHINGTON RATHER THAN AT BORDER. IF GOES IS AGREEABLE, TWO FONMINS WOULD GO TO WASHINGTON FOR PRELIMINARY MEETING PRIOR TO APPEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN. HE OBSERVED THAT GOH MIGHT ALTER VIEWPOINT DEPENDING ON MANAGUA MEETING AND SENTIMENT WITHIN COMMITTEE OF SEVEN. BARTCH

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